

7. Decolonisation to Political Integration of India

7.1 Decolonisation to Political Integration of India

7.2 Dadra and Nagar-Haveli

7.3 Goa

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‘Decolonisation’ is the process of ending the colonial rule and handing over the political and administrative power to local people by the colonialists. Opposition to colonialism, struggle for independence and the nations under colonisation regaining their independence are the three stages of decolonisation process. India became independent on 15th August 1947. However, at that time there existed several Princely States in India, which were ruled by the hereditary rulers under British suzerainty. These states were given the choice to decide whether to accede to India or not. If these states had decided against it, then it would have become very difficult to create the Indian Union. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the first Deputy Prime Minister and the Home Minister of India, pursued most of the rulers of these states in favour of acceding to India so that political integration of India could be possible. In this lesson, we are going to take a brief review of these events.

7.1 Decolonisation to Political Integration of India

When India gained independence, there were more than 600 princely states of various size. Their political integration was the biggest challenge faced by the leaders of independent India. There



Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

was political awakening in the Princely States because of Non Co-operation movement. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel handled the situation with great skill and tact. He took a conciliatory approach and won the confidence of the rulers of these states. With the exception of Junagadh, Hyderabad, and Kashmir remaining states responded positively to the appeal and merged in India. Later, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel adopted a stern policy and resolved the problem of the accession of those states, who were unwilling to accede.

Junagadh : It was a princely state in Saurashtra (Gujarat). The people of this state were ready to accede to India while its Nawab wanted to merge in Pakistan. However common people opposed the Nawab’s decision. He escaped to Pakistan. In February 1948, Junagadh merged in India.

Hyderabad Freedom Struggle : Hyderabad was the largest amongst the princely states in India. It comprised Telugu, Kannada and Marathi regional sections. It was ruled by Nizam. He put restrictions on the civil and political rights of his subjects to a great extent. To fight against the suppressive policies of Nizam people of the state established various organisations, namely, ‘Andhra Parishad’ in Telangana, ‘Maharashtra Parishad’ in Marathawada and ‘Karnataka Parishad’ in Karnataka. Swami Ramanand Tirtha led Hyderabad freedom struggle skillfully with the help of loyal workers of these three organisations. He founded the ‘Hyderabad State Congress’ and gave a momentum to the struggle for Hyderabad’s accession.



Swami Ramanand Tirtha

The 'Hyderabad State Congress' passed a resolution in favour of Hyderabad's merger in India. It was opposed by Nizam for the fear of losing his hold. He was willing to join Pakistan. The people were in favour of India while the ruler was in favour of Pakistan. Kasim Razvi, who could exercise considerable influence over Nizam, founded an organisation called 'Razakar'. Kasim Razvi and his organisation practiced many atrocities against the people who were fighting for democracy. Nizam was adamant on his policies. He was averse to any negotiations and closed all channels of mediation. Ultimately the Indian government launched a police campaign against Nizam. This campaign was named as 'Operation Polo'. On 17th September 1948 Nizam finally surrendered and Hyderabad state was merged in India.



Do you know?

The Contribution of Marathwada in 'Hyderabad Freedom Struggle' : The following leaders were actively involved in 'Hyderabad Freedom Struggle' : Swami Ramanand Tirth, Govindbhai Shroff, Babasaheb Paranjape, Digambarrao Bindu, A. K. Wagmare, Anantrao Bhalerao, Fulchand Gandhi, Manikchand Pahade, Devisingh Chauhan, Ashatai Wagmare, Dagadabai Shelke and others. The following people became martyrs : Vedprakash, Shyamlal, Govind Pansare, Shridhar Vartak, Bahirjee Shinde, Janardan Mama and others. The leaders and people of Marathwada had a lion's share in 'Hyderabad Freedom Struggle'. 17th September, the day of Hyderabad's Freedom is celebrated as the 'Marathwada Liberation Day'.

Try to do this.

Try to collect information about the newspapers published during 'Hyderabad Freedom Struggle' with the help of internet.

The Kashmir Issue : Hari Singh, the ruling king of the State of Kashmir, had decided neither to join India, nor Pakistan after India's independence. However, Pakistan had plans to annex Kashmir to its territory. Therefore, Pakistan began to pressurise King Hari Singh. On 22nd October 1947, armed bands of intruders attacked Kashmir from the Pakistan border. King Hari Singh, who wanted to maintain independent status, asked India for help. On 27th October 1947, he consented to merge Kashmir in India and officially submitted the Agreement (Instrument of Accession) to the Government of India. The Indian Army was sent for Kashmir's protection. It captured a significant portion of Kashmir's territory that was acquired by the armed intruders from Pakistani border, however, they managed to keep their hold on some portion. In 1948, India presented the Kashmir issue in 'United Nations'. Thus, Kashmir issue became an international issue. Even the 'United Nations' could not persuade Pakistan to withdraw their troops from the territory of Kashmir occupied by them. However, then the 'National Conference Party' decided on plebiscite to solve the issue and to accede Kashmir to India. The constitution of Jammu and Kashmir was drafted and since then Jammu-Kashmir has been an integral part of the Republic of India. It was accorded a special status under 'Article 370'.

7.2 Dadra and Nagar-Haveli

Dadra and Nagar-Haveli are located in the interior parts of Gujarat coast. It is on the northern banks of the river Damanganga.

It was part of Portuguese dominion and was administered by a Portuguese governor. It was anticipated that after India's independence the Portuguese would hand over these regions to India and quit. However they did not do so. Therefore, the local people in Dadra and Nagar-Haveli rose against the Portuguese. The organisations, namely, 'United Front of Goans', 'Azad Gomantak Dal' came together and planned a campaign to free these regions from the Portuguese rule. In 1954, Francis Mascarenhas, Vimal Sardesai, the leaders of 'Azad Gomantak Dal' intensified the struggle. With fierce protestations people captured Nagar-Haveli. The other organisation, 'United Front of Goans' took hold of Dadra. 'Rashtravadi Mukti Sena', a branch of 'Azad Gomantak Dal' took over Naroli, Pimpria and some part of Silvassa. Local police stations and administrative offices were attacked. Public unrest reached such extent that the Portuguese army had to beat a retreat. The Portuguese Captain Fidalgo surrendered. The Government of India appointed K.G. Badalani to bring normalcy in administration in these area. According to the agreement with the Indian government, the region of Dadra and Nagar-Haveli was merged in India on 2nd August 1954. Vishvanath Lavande, Rajabhau Vakankar, Sudhir Phadke, Nanasaheb Kajarekar, Nilubhau Limaye, Vasant Zanjale and many others participated in this struggle. In 1961 Dadra and Nagar-Haveli were given the status of 'Union Territories'.

7.3 Goa

The movement of liberating Goa from the Portuguese rule had begun during pre-independence times only. In 1928 'Goa Congress Committee' was founded in Mumbai. Dr.T.B. Kunha was the president of this committee. In 1929, Goa Congress Committee became an integral branch of

Indian National Congress. In 1939, posters with 'Quit Goa' slogans were posted all over Goa. Francis Mascarenhas, the President of United Goan Front unfurled the Indian flag in Goa. In 1946, under the leadership of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, the movement of 'Civil Disobedience' was launched in Goa. Dr.Lohia was arrested and was deported from Goa. Dr.T.B. Kunha, Purushottam Kakodkar, Dr.Ram Hegde, Dr. P. P. Shirodkar and Gopal Mayekar were arrested for participating in the satyagraha at Madgaon. Dr. Kunha was imprisoned for eight years. He was sent to a prison in Portugal. Later, after returning to India, he started publishing two newspapers, namely, 'Azad Goa' and 'Swatantra Goa'.



Dr. T. B. Kunha

After India's independence, the movement for liberating Goa took roots in Maharashtra. In 1954, the 'Goa Vimochan Sahayak Samiti' was founded at Pune. Keshavarao Jedhe, N.G. Gore, and Jayantrao Tilak took on the responsibility of directing the movement. Some groups who volunteered for the cause of Goa's liberation marched to Goa under the leadership of N.G. Gore and Senapati Bapat. One group of those volunteers unfurled the national flag of India on the fort of Panaji.

There were a number of other eminent people, who participated in the Goa liberation movement. It included people like Pandit Mahadevshastri Joshi, Shirubhau Limaye, Peter Alvaris and Sudha Joshi. The



Senapati Bapat

contribution of Mohan Ranade in this struggle is very significant. He systematically began anti-Portuguese propaganda in Goa. With the help of Azad Gomantak Dal, he also started armed struggle against the Portuguese. During an attack on a police station, he was shot and got injured. Portuguese government kept him in jail till 1972. Acharya P.K. Atre used the daily newspaper 'Maratha', published by him as a platform for supporting the movement.

The strong public sentiments in the matter of Goa's liberation moved Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to act on it. A mission was planned under the code name, 'Operation Vijay'. Indian army descended in Goa to accomplish the mission. The army was helped by local civilians as well. They showed the army the places where, the Portuguese had planted landmines. The Portuguese surrendered within 48 hours. On 19th December 1961 Goa became a part of the Indian Republic. The foreign rule of 450 years came to an end.

Try to do this.

Collect information of the fort of Panaji and make a poster about the fort.

7.4 Puducherry

When India got its independence, Puducherry was still a French colony. There prevailed a general notion among Indians that departure of the British from India would send a signal the Portuguese and the French to leave India on their own. However, it was not to be so. The dispersed regions including Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam and also Chandranagar

in West Bengal were ruled by the French. The French Government was unwilling to surrender these regions. People at Puducherry got united under the leadership of V. Subbayya, a communist politician and a trade unionist. Taking a serious note of the happenings in Puducherry, the Government of India strongly demanded that the French government return the Indian regions held by them. In June 1948, a bilateral agreement was signed between both the governments. Thus, it became possible to resolve the Puducherry issue by way of negotiations, public movements and governmental actions.

In 1949-50, after a positive public poll, Chandrnagar was merged in the Indian Republic. Later, on 13th October 1954 by a bilateral agreement between the Indian government and French government, the minutes of the merger process were drafted. The vote in the Legislative Assembly and in the Municipal Corporation was in the support of accession. On 1st November 1954 all French colonies in India were merged in India. In 1962, the French Parliament approved of the bilateral agreement and in 1963 Puducherry was declared to be a 'Union Territory'.

Under the leadership of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Princely States in India were acceded to India and became integral part of the Indian Republic. Thus, the process of political integration of India was completed.

In the next lesson we are going to review the 'World Wars' and its impact on India.



Exercise

Q.1 (A) Choose the correct alternative and rewrite the statement.

- In 1946, under the leadership of the movement of 'Civil Disobedience' was launched in Goa.
(a) Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia
(b) Dr. T.B. Kunha
(c) Dr. P.P. Shirodkar
(d) Dr. Ram Hegde
- Hyderabad's struggle of freedom was led skillfully by
(a) King Hari Singh
(b) Swami Ramanand Tirth
(c) Pandit Mahadevshastri Joshi
(d) Keshavrao Jedhe

- The Princely States in India were acceded to India mainly through the efforts of
(a) Jayantrao Tilak
(b) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
(c) Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru
(d) Dr. T.B. Kunha

(B) Find the incorrect pair from group 'B', and write the corrected one.

- | Group 'A' | Group 'B' |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. Accession of the princely state of Hyderabad | Swami Ramanand Tirth |
| 2. Accession of the princely state of Kashmir | Shaikh Abdulla |

3. Significant contribution in the 'Goa Liberation' Movement. Mohan Ranade
4. The trade unionist leader in Puducherry V. Subaiyya

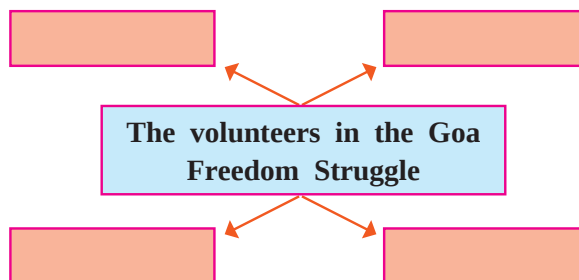
Q.2 Write the names of historical places/ persons/events.

1. The princely state that did not accede to India immediately after its independence –
2. The President of Goa Congress Committee –

Q.3 Observe the map on p.no. 61 and answer the questions based on it.

1. What is the name of the country located at the northwest border of India?
2. Which place in India was the centre of Portuguese rule?
3. Which places on the eastern coast of India were the centres of French rule?
4. Which nation is located at the southern tip of India?

Q.4 Complete the following concept map.



Q.5 Explain the following statements with reason.

1. Ultimately the princely state of Hyderabad was acceded to India.
2. Puducherry was declared as a union territory.

Q.6 State your opinion.

1. Andhra, Karnataka, Maharashtra Councils (Parishad) were founded in the princely state of Hyderabad.
2. The Portuguese rule in Goa remained untouched till 1961.

Project

Collect information about 'Gorta Massacre' a very important instance in the struggle for liberating Hyderabad. To get more information about it visit the following website: www.bhausahebunate.com

